HMAS Hobart

By Gerald E York. Lt Cdr RAN (Ret'd)

I served in HMAS *Hobart* for all of 1947 during her last trip with BCOF in Japan. This included a visit to Shanghai shortly before Chairman Mao arrived at the end of his "Long March". Other Radar mechanics on board with me were John (Bash) Harrell, ex PO Tel and Basil Richards. Kevin Duffy joined on our return from Japan in September. Lofty Waugh, ex PO RM was the Radar Officer and had just been commissioned as a WO (thin striper). Lofty joined the same time as I joined when he took over from Col Stewart. I left *Hobart* on decommissioning 12 December 1947 when Dick Withers and "Slim" Sommervelle joined to complete the decommissioning phase and refit. On completion of the refit *Hobart* went into mothballs for several years before going to Japan for scrapping. In fact I was in HMAS *Melbourne* in Kobe when she arrived in Osaka to be scrapped. That was 1959 I think.

When *Hobart* was at sea, 2 RMs used to sleep in the 281 compartment, one in front of the Tx and the other inside the Tx next to the output bottles (See editor's note).

Hobart had the following Radars:

281 AEW. The transmitter was installed in its own hut on the upper deck midships between the main and foremasts. The antenna was mounted at the top of the mainmast. This was a number of stacked dipoles which gave a range of 200 plus nautical miles. The low frequency of of 180 Mcs and antenna height gave it this excellent range.

277 combined surface and air warning. This had a parabolic reflector half way up the main mast. Its operating frequency was 3,000 Mcs, wavelength 10 cm. Its capability was aircraft detection (at height) 100 miles and large ships 50 miles.

SG (Sugar George). US design. Operated at 3,000 Mcs. Antenna mounted on top of the main mast just below the 293 antenna. PPI was mounted on the bridge. Navigation capability was up to 50 miles.

285. There were 3 of these for the 4" directors and 4" gun control. The Yagi antennas and transmitter were tuned to 450 Mcs. The "A" scan displays were mounted in the Directors.

282. There were 4 of these. For gun control of the Bofors and Oerlikons. They used Yagi antennas. The "A" scan displays were mounted in the Tx/Rx compartment on the main deck midships waist.

As well, *Hobart* had IFF and LORAN.

Editor's note: All Radar transmitters delivered high power electromagnetic transmissions when operational, these transmissions coming from the Radar set's power output valves, colloquially referred to as the bottles.